

Paper invented in China  
TS'AI LUN produces the world's first  
lightweight writing material  
little is known about the invention  
of paper, except that it is believed first  
made by a Chinese man  
named TS'AI LUN in the early years  
of the 2nd century. Before then  
writing had been done on PAPYRUS or  
PERCHMENT, heavy materials, which

made communication laborious and expensive. TS'AI LUN's paper was made of bark and hemp, which produced thin lightweight sheets capable of easy transport. It was, therefore of the greatest significance in the development of commerce and the extension of central political authority. The invention spread to Japan in the 7th century and central Asia in the 8th century. But it did not reach Europe until the mid-12th century (Twelfth) when it was carried into NORTHERN Spain by the Moors.